

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action dated October 18, 2004 and the references cited therein. Applicant has amended claim 1 added new claims 8-14 to further define the invention and cancelled claims 4 and 5, without prejudice. Applicant believes the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

As an initial matter, the Examiner requested correction of paragraph [0001] of the specification. As set forth in the application data sheet filed with the application, Applicant's priority claim to PCT/US03/14186 is under 35 U.S.C. § 119, not § 120. Thus, to avoid confusion applicants have cancelled paragraph [0001] of the specification. Applicant has also corrected typographical errors in paragraphs [0008] and [0009].

The Examiner also raised an objection to the drawings in that they did not include reference number 17. In response, applicants are including herewith a replacement drawing sheet for FIG. 1 in which reference number 17 has been added. Applicants have also amended FIG. 1 to correct the cross-hatching of elements 22, 24 and 26 to parallel diagonal lines as suggested by the Examiner. Applicants are also submitting a second replacement drawing sheet for FIG. 2 in which the cross-hatching of the liquid flow tube has been corrected to parallel lines. These drawing amendments are fully supported by the application as filed and no new matter has been entered by way of these drawing amendments. The Examiner is requested to approve the replacement drawing sheets.

Originally filed claims 1, 2 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,073,436 to Behr. Originally filed claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over Behr in view of U.S. Patent 5,868,321 to Haruch and originally filed claim 4 stands rejected under § 103 as unpatentable over Behr in view of U.S. Patent 6,267,301 to Haruch. In the Office Action, the Examiner also indicated that claim 5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

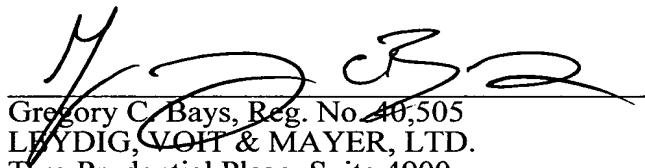
Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claims 4 and 5 as this was indicated to be allowable by the Examiner. Applicant respectfully submits that new claims 7-14 are also allowable over the cited prior art. In particular, the cited references do not teach or suggest, at least, the "air guide defining an inwardly flared, radiused air annulus for channeling pressurized air from the air inlet passages to create a high velocity annular air curtain directed in surrounding relation to the outlets of the transverse passageways" recited in new independent claim 7. Likewise, the cited references do not teach or suggest, at least, the reduced cross-sectional area portion of the longitudinal liquid flow passageway being

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arranged at a downstream end of the longitudinal flow passageway and having a cross-sectional area less than the cross-sectional area of each of the transverse passageways as recited in new independent claim 12. Accordingly, new claims 7-14 are also in condition for allowance.

The application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. C. Bays', is written over a horizontal line.

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The replacement drawing sheets include changes to FIGS. 1 and 2. These sheets replace the original sheets including FIG. 1 and FIG. 2. FIG. 1 has been amended to add reference number 17. FIG. 1 has also been amended to correct the cross-hatching of the air guide 22, the mixture guide 24 and the impingement pin 28. FIG. 2 has been amended to correct the cross-hatching of the liquid flow tube.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet(s)